

4 December 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

RE: Period 4 programme and mock exams

We are delighted with the hard work that our students have put in to revise for the upcoming mock exams. Attendance at period 4 sessions has been fantastic and we are aware that lots of other revision work has been taking place too. We are sure that our students will see the benefit of this in their results.

Period 4 sessions will run as normal during the mock exam period up with Wednesday 16 December being the final period 4 session of the year. There will be no period 4 sessions on Thursday 17 December and Friday 18 December. In the New Year, we will pause Period 4 for the first two weeks and recommence on Monday 18 January.

We are aware that some students will want to continue to attend period 4 during the mock exam period; however, some students may choose to revise at home, depending on their exam timetable. Students may wish to prioritise certain sessions in certain weeks (e.g. attending the core subjects of English, maths and science in the first week of mock exams and then concentrating on the option subjects in the second week). Please be assured that students are free to attend as many or as few period 4 sessions as they see fit in order to support their exam preparation. We appreciate that many students are anxious and striking the right balance at an individual level is really important. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about your child's well-being, so we can help support them at this pressurised time.

The main purpose of these mock exams is to identify gaps in knowledge and misconceptions that can then be addressed in the spring term in the run up to the GCSE exams. With this in mind, if a student is absent for a mock exam (e.g. due to self-isolation), the exam will be made available on Microsoft Teams for the student to complete at home. This will ensure that feedback from their mock exams is not delayed. We ask that in order to benefit fully from the exam experience and feedback that students complete this in exam conditions, in the allotted time.

You may have read in the news that the government continue to look at ways that the exams can be as fair as possible next summer and we will write to you with more detailed information once we have it.

Many thanks for your support with this and we wish the students the best of luck in their upcoming exams.

Best wishes



Mr J Loftus
Deputy Headteacher